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R E P O R T

OF

LOUISIANA RELIEF LODGE, NO. 1,

TO THE

M. W. GRAND LODGE OF LOUISIANA,

SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 11, 1861.

~~Be it~~ The attention of the Secretaries of the contributing Lodges is called to the following resolution, passed at the meeting of Louisiana Relief Lodge, No. 1, held May 5, 1861.

"*Resolved*, That 1000 copies of the Report of this Lodge to the M. W. Grand Lodge be printed for distribution among the members of the contributing Lodges, and that the Secretary of this Lodge request the Secretaries of the contributing Lodges to distribute them among their individual members."

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana:

On the return of another Annual Communication, Louisiana Relief Lodge, No. 1, begs leave to present the following report :

And first, we would render our grateful homage to the Grand Architect of the Universe for his loving-kindness towards us during the past year, in blessing our city with health, and keeping far from our midst the devouring pestilence. While we have escaped the great personal exertion and increased expenditure which attends an epidemic, the calls for assistance have been no less urgent and frequent. Misfortune and disappointment, sickness and death, and the widow and the orphan, are always in our midst, appealing for aid, assistance and consolation. More especially has this been the

case towards the close of the past year. Causes, which are familiar to all, entirely deranged business—numbers were thrown out of situations, and the multitudes who flock to this city every fall in search of employment were doomed to disappointment. Among them were a large number of Masons, and to the relief of the worthy, so far as our means would permit, have our charities been extended. Substantially the same system has been pursued, and this has been explained so often, that it is deemed superfluous to repeat it.

It may not, however, be irrelevant to remark, that the greater number of applications for relief are from unaffiliated Masons, and those generally from jurisdictions which do not publish the returns of their Subordinate Lodges. Diplomas are occasionally exhibited of ancient dates, and relief claimed as a right on the strength of the parchment, even when the applicant cannot prove himself. In one instance, forty-three years had elapsed, according to the statement of the applicant, since he had visited his Lodge, or contributed one cent to the support of the Order. This is an extreme case, but it is no rare occurrence to have applications for relief from those who, for periods of ten or fifteen years, have been in the same situation. Our by-laws prohibit the recognition of any such claims, and as far as possible they are adhered to. When there is a reasonable doubt, and the case is urgent, the applicant has the benefit of it; but in such cases, the publication of the lists of membership by all the Grand Lodges would be a check upon the unworthy.

In the absence of such lists, and also in cases of doubt, we have adopted the system of writing for information to the jurisdiction from whence the applicants hail. As a general rule, our communications have been answered and valuable information obtained, and, in particular, we would return our thanks to Bro. J. M. Austin, Grand Secretary of New York, and Bro. Theo. Parvin, Grand Secretary of Iowa, for the promptness with which they have answered our frequent inquiries.

We would respectfully call the attention of the Grand Lodge to the practice which prevails in some jurisdictions of conferring side-degrees upon females. Numerous applications for relief are made, and assistance claimed as a right upon the strength of these so-called degrees. Knowing nothing of them *per se*, the Relief Lodge can recognize no such claims, but when the applicant can satisfy us that she is worthy and entitled to our aid, it is always liberally extended,

and we can see no benefit to be gained by innovations and inventions, which, however harmless in themselves, have been often found in the possession of the worthless and the vile.

During the past year, the Relief Lodge Tomb, in Greenwood Cemetery, has been entirely renovated, and a new wing built, containing twenty-four vaults, and corresponding in all respects with the original structure. The contract for this work was \$1,500. Of this amount, \$1,000 has been paid, and a note for \$500, due 1st of April, given for the balance. When this improvement was undertaken, the Relief Lodge had every prospect to meet the payment of this note, but the heavy drain upon our treasury at the close of the past, and beginning of the present year, almost forbids such a hope. Under these circumstances, it may become necessary to draw that amount from the funds belonging to the Relief Lodge, which were loaned to the Grand Lodge Hall, and should such an emergency occur, we have no doubt that the Board of Directors will enable us to meet promptly our engagements.

There is still another wing to be built, before the Tomb will be completed according to the original design. At present there are sixty-four vaults, besides the receiving vault—when completed, there will be ninety-six vaults. Our intention is to complete it as soon as circumstances will permit, and thus secure a last resting place to those brethren of other jurisdictions who may happen to die among us.

Our Secretary, Bro. A. DeSola, has prepared the following statement of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Relief Lodge for the year 1860 :

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1, 1860.....	\$1,024 91
Received from Friends of Harmony Lodge, No. 58	\$281 00
" " George Washington Lodge, No. 65	333 00
" " Dudley Lodge, No. 66.....	237 00
" " Marion Lodge, No. 68.....	295 75
" " Alpha Home Lodge, No. 72	80 00
" " Quitman Lodge, No. 76	263 25
" " Louisiana Lodge, No. 102.....	50 00
" " Home Lodge, No. 142, (old balance).	48 00
" " Ocean Lodge, No. 144.....	180 00

Amount forwarded.....	\$2,792 91

	Amount brought forward.....	\$2,792 91
Donation from Grand Lodge of Connecticut.....	245 50	
" " Grand Lodge of Georgia.....	100 00	
" " Grand Consistory of Louisiana	90	
" " Washington Naval Lodge, No. 4, D. C.....	25 00	
" " Dorie Lodge, No. 280, New York.....	35 00	
" " Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 40, Saint Louis.....	10 00	
" " P. G. M. Wm. M. Perkins.....	31 75	
		448 15
Returned by two Ohio brethren.....	40 00	
" a St. Louis brother	10 00	
" a Texas brother.....	15 00	
" an Iowa brother.....	15 00	
" a Louisiana brother.....	30 00	
" a Pennsylvania brother.....	10 00	
		120 00
Returned by Bro. Walter Nicol, amount paid him in error.....	480 00	
Received for use of vaults.....	35 00	
" Premium on Draft.....	40	
		480 00
Total receipts.....	\$3,876 46	
Total disbursements for 1860.....	3,087 15	
		789 31
Orders in hands of Secretary not cashed.....	\$365 00	
Due by Secretary.....	02	
		365 02
Amount in treasury, December 31, 1860.....	\$ 424 29	

DISBURSEMENTS.

To applicants from Alabama.....	\$ 10 00
" " Arkansas.....	10 00
" " California.....	55 00
" " District of Columbia.....	30 00
" " Georgia	10 00
" " Illinois.....	37 50
" " Indiana	15 00
" " Iowa.....	20 00
" " Kansas	25 00
Amount forwarded.....	\$212 50

Amount brought forward	\$212 50
To applicants from Kentucky	67 50
" " Maine	35 00
" " Maryland	12 00
" " Massachusetts	15 00
" " Michigan	5 00
" " Minnesota	10 00
" " Mississippi	55 00
" " Missouri	121 00
" " New Hampshire	10 00
" " New Jersey	5 00
" " New York	222 00
" " Ohio	55 00
" " Pennsylvania	104 00
" " Rhode Island	10 00
" " South Carolina	105 00
" " Texas	195 00
" " Virginia	79 00
" " Wisconsin	20 00
	————— \$1,338 00
" " Antigua, West Indies*	\$ 10 00
" " Jamaica, West Indies*	65 00
" " Nova Scotia*	30 00
	————— \$105 00
" " France	20 00
" " Holland	12 50
" " Ireland	67 00
" " Scotland	60 00
	————— 264 50
To Masons of Louisiana	\$ 120 00
To Widows and Orphans of Louisiana	153 00
	————— 273 00
Repairs and additions to Tomb	\$1000 00
Tomb Expenses	121 00
	————— 1,121 00
Secretary's Salary for 1860	60 00
Tyling, stationary, postage, etc	30 25
Discount on uncurrent money	40
	—————
Total Disbursements for the year 1860	\$3,087 15

* Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England.

RECAPITULATION OF DISBURSEMENTS.

To Masons of Louisiana	\$ 120 00
" other State jurisdictions.....	996 00
" Foreign jurisdictions	244 50
	_____ \$1,360 50
To Widows and Orphans of Louisiana	\$ 153 00
" " other State jurisdictions.....	342 00
" " Foreign jurisdictions	20 00
	_____ 515 00
Total relief granted in 1860	1,875 50
Repairs and addition to Tomb	1,000 00
Tomb Expenses	121 00
Secretary's salary, tiling, etc.	90 25
Discount on uncurrent money	40
Total disbursements.....	_____ \$3,087 15

We have again to return our thanks for the sympathy and assistance extended to us by other jurisdictions. A glance at our receipts will show that during the past year the Grand Lodges of Connecticut and Georgia have shown their appreciation of our labors by donating to us material aid. Washington Naval Lodge, No. 4, D. C.; Doric Lodge, No. 280, New York; and Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 40, St. Louis, have also testified their approval of our "work" in the same manner.

To that true and steadfast friend of the Relief Lodge, Past Grand Master Wm. M. Perkins, we again return our thanks for his annual donation of \$31 75.

A pleasing feature in the present report is the amounts returned by individual Masons who have been assisted by the Relief Lodge. Considering the numbers relieved, who, notwithstanding their promise, do not even write to us after they have reached their homes, those brethren who have kept their faith are deserving of all praise; and it is a matter of congratulation to us to know that our charities have been bestowed upon some who have proved themselves truly worthy.

Hoping that our "work" may be ever such as to merit a continuance of the approbation of the Grand Lodge, this report is respectfully and fraternally submitted on behalf of the Lodge.

JAMES B. SCOT, W. M.,

Louisiana Relief Lodge, No. 1.



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